LIBRARY

HEALTH
A 11 OCT 50
C.R. 54

PADSTOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st.DECEMBER,1949.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J.Reed, M.B, Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

A.F.Buller, A.R.S.I.

Mr.Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District of Padstow. The appointment commenced on 1st January, 1949 and is part of the combined post of Assistant County Medical Officer, Assistant School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health to Wadebridge Rural District and Bodmin Borough. You will perhaps forgive me if this first report is somewhat brief owing to the lack of certain information, due partly to the absence of registers e.g. Milk and Dairies Registers, and the retirement of Mr.Stevens during the early part of the year and the lack of previous reports for comparison. The deficiencies in Milk and Dairies Registers were brought to your notice, and in view of the commencement in the near future of new regulations little was done at the time. However, your newly appointed Sanitary Inspector has made good these deficiencies as far as possible in the time at his disposal, and what information he has gleaned will be reported upon.

The Council, like so many others in this part of the country has two outstanding problems bearing directly upon the health of the community. These are housing and water supplies. Of the occupied houses a good proportion come within the definition of unfit for human habitation and the lack of enforcement of repair, permits further deterioration readily to occur. The slow rate of housing progress, the lack of some scheme of allocation are discouraging to the public, and officials alike, neither of whom have any ready solution visible.

In regard to water supplies, the difficulty has been in supplying the needs of the community, as the source has a limited capacity which falls below the needs of the population during the summer season.

1. STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres	3,343
Estimated Mid Year Population 1949.	2,466 (civilian).
	2,481 (total).
Comparability factor.	0.73
Number of Inhabited Houses.	809
Total Rateable Value	£19,365
Product of Penny Rate.	£80

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

TABLE 1.

Number of Registered Live Births during 1949

	Male.	Female	Total.
Legitimate	21	15	36
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total.	21	15	36

Birth Rate = 14.51 per 1,000 total population
Birth Rate England & Wales = 16.7 per 1,000 total population.

Still Births.

TABLE 11.

Number of Stillbirths Registered during 1940.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total.	-	2	2

Stillbirth Rate = 52.6 per 1,000 total births or
= 0 .81 per 1,000 total population.
Stillbirth Rate England & Wales = 0.39 per total population.

Infant Mortality.

TABLE 111.

Number of Infant Deaths Registered during 1949.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.	-	1	1
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
Total	-	1	1

Infant Mortality Rate = 27.7 per 1,000 live births.
Infant Mortality Rate England & Wales = 32 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths.

Number of Deaths Registered during 1949.

Male.	Female.	Total.
14	22	36

Crude Death Rate = 14.51 per 1,000 total population.
Death Rate England & Wales = 11.7 per 1,000 total population

Causes of Death.

TABLE IV.

Distribution of Deaths by Diseases.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Diseases of Heart.	7	9	16
Diseases of Intracanial Vessels.	1	3	4
Diseases of Respiratory System (excluding Tuberculosis).	-	2	2
Diabetes.	-	2	2
Cancer.	2	3	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis.	1	1	2
Disease of Digestive System	1	2	3
Nephritis.	1	-	1
Violence.	1	-	1
	14	22	36

TABLE V.

Distribution of Ages at Death.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
0 - 1	-	1	1
1 - 20	-	-	-
21 - 40	-	-	-
41 - 60	4	4	8
61 - 70	2	6	8
71 - 80	3	4	7
81 - 90	4	7	11
Over 90	1	-	1
Total	14	22	36

11. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital and Maternity Accommodation.

General Hospital facilities are provided by the East Cornwall Hospital in Bodmin, and the Royal Cornwall Infirmary in Truro. Infectious diseases may be admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Truro and mental cases are accommodated at the St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin.

Maternity accommodation is now limited to admission of selected and emergency cases to the Redruth maternity hospital, a distance of approximately thirty miles away. The establishment of accommodation nearer to the Urban District would be a considerable improvement.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.

These are provided under the County Council's arrangements, in which the vehicle of the local division of the British Red Cross Society is employed on a voluntary basis. Some cases are also carried by the County's ambulances based on Bodmin, and some friction as to their relative use arose during the year.

Sitting cases were conveyed to hospital by the Hospital Car Service, supplemented late in the year by the County Council's Utilicon ambulance. The demand for this type of transport was considerable and minor complaints were inevitable. The Council made representation to the Health Area Sub-Committee regarding certain complaints, but some were not substantiated on investigation, and others concerned transport by other authorities.

Midwifery, Nursing and Health Visiting.

Two nurses employed by the County Council served the district during the year. Their duties included general nursing, midwifery and general Health visiting. Tuberculosis visiting was undertaken by a full-time Health Visitor. The nursing services provided were considered to be adequate. One nurse was qualified to administer Gas & Air Analgesia in midwifery practice.

Infant Welfare Centre.

A centre was held once every fortnight under the County Council's arrangements. The premises are not ideal for the purpose, but the attendances were good. Average quarterly attendances during the year were:- 23, 29, 26, 23 children.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

One session is held fortnightly in the Foresters' Hall, primarily for midwives' cases. The opportunity is taken to give talks and demonstrations in relation to ante and post-natal care. The attendances have varied from 9 to 14 expectant mothers. Specialist ante-natal supervision is provided at the Newquay ante-natal clinic for cases requiring hospital admission.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Diphtheria immunisation is provided by general practitioners and at the Infant Welfare Centre. The number of inoculations given during the year was 36, to children between 0 - 5 years. Of this age group 76.4% of children are now believed to be protected against diphtheria. During the year an attempt was made to bring the school immunisation state up to date, and with the permission of parents, 142 children received boosting doses.

Few children were vaccinated during the year, but the outbreak of smallpox at Liskeard provided some stimulus, which quickly declined on the successful control of the outbreak.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) Tuberculosis. All notified cases were visited and recommendations for National Assistance or County Grant were made where necessary. Supervision in the home and advice in relation to prevention of spread was given by the tuberculosis health visitor.

(b) Hospital Discharges. Contact was secured with Hospital Almoners relating to cases discharged from hospital. These were visited and assistance rendered where required.

School Health Services.

Premises. These are of considerable age and the sanitary provisions in general, although of fairly modern pattern are inadequate for the number of children attending school.

Pupils. Approximately 325 children attend the maintained school. During the year 91 children were examined at routine inspections. Two only were considered to be of poor general condition (C), 38 as A (good), and the remainder B (fair). The most frequently recorded defect was of minor refractive errors. There are 8 pupils classified as 'Handicapped' in school, 6 'Delicate' and two Educationally Sub-Normal, recommended for Special Schools.

Milk and Meals. These provisions are good. Milk is pasteurised, delivered in bulk. Meals are prepared and served in the recently built Canteen, which is well suited for the purpose.

111. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies.

The Urban District obtains its water from adits at Crackrattle Downs and Princes Common which feed a 40,000 gallon tank at 366 feet above ordnance datum. Water is conveyed from this tank by 6" and 5" mains to service reservoirs, one at 211 feet O.D. (52,000 gallons) one at 185 feet O.D. (25,000 gallons) and a water tower at 235 feet O.D. (5,000 gallons), serving Padstow, Trevone and Mindrill respectively. The water is plumbo-solvent (p.H 5.7) with a total hardness of 4 parts per million. Under normal conditions the water is not treated.

No samples were taken for bacteriological analysis during the year.

Subsequently it has been shown that periods of heavy rainfall produce coliform organisms in small numbers in samples taken. The collecting area is uninhabited moorland and bears little risk of contamination from human excreta.

Acute shortages were experienced during the summer months of 1949 necessitating the cutting off of supply by night. The supply is grossly inadequate during these months when, with the influx of visitors, the population of the district is approximately doubled. Emergency pumping had to be resorted to in an effort to meet the demand. The initiation of a scheme by the Council for an impounding reservoir is a step in the right direction to overcome finally the recurring difficulty of sufficiency of supply.

Sewerage.

The sewage from Padstow discharges without treatment into the tidal estuary of the River Camel, and that from Windmill and Trevone discharges into the sea by an outfall at Trevone. The system of sewers serving the older parts of Padstow are U shaped brick sewers covered with slate slabs. These sewers were laid, it is understood, some 90 years ago by the Prideaux-Brune estate to eliminate nuisances arising from open ditches and streams at that time. The sewers are obviously at this date unsatisfactory, and their increasing use by the addition of estates such as the married quarters of the Naval Air Station will inevitably result in overloading and flooding of the lower portions of the town. To add to the likelihood of this occurring is the silting up of the outfall by the deposition of sand in the Camel Estuary.

The Council put in hand during the year preparation of schemes for new sewage disposal for Padstow.

Refuse Collection.

This service is let to private contractors who collect refuse twice weekly in the Urban District, except at Trevone where the collection is weekly. The refuse tip at Green Lane was quickly becoming exhausted as a site at the end of 1949. The standard of refuse disposal is not particularly high, many household containers fall short of requirements, the vehicle used in collection is not ideal and the tip during 1949 was not completely controlled. The provision of the service by the Council, providing its own vehicle and employees would be worth consideration.

Sanitary Inspection.

Routine inspection of the district was considerably handicapped during the year by the retirement of Mr.Stevens, much of whose time was occupied in the preparation and supervision of housing projects of the Urban District Council. Mr.Buller was appointed in October and the remainder of the year was devoted to acquiring a knowledge of the district, the preparation of registers and the investigation of sanitary problems as they arose. Registers prepared by Mr.Buller were Factories, Milk & Dairies and Ice Cream Premises.

Rodent Controls.

The Urban District is part of a combined area employing a single rodent operative for this purpose.

1V. HOUSING.

The Urban District contains many houses which can only be regarded as unfit for human habitation. The number will not fall far short of one-tenth of the occupied houses in the district, and the greater proportion are situated in the town of Padstow. The Council has hitherto taken no steps under the Housing Act of 1936 to clear slum property and although action of this kind is the only suitable method of dealing with these unsatisfactory housing conditions, the present rate of provision of new houses make such action impossible.

During the year, four traditional type houses were completed and occupied, being of the 1947 programme. Ten traditional type (1948 programme) were commenced. Eight houses allocated for 1949 were not under way during the year.

Statutory Action under section 9 of the Housing Act 1936 was taken in the case of one property during the year.

V. FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The new register contains a list of 19 premises subject to inspection by H.M.Inspector of Factories, for which the Council are responsible for the supervision of sanitary accommodation. No visits were paid to these premises during 1949.

V1. FOOD & DRUGS.

Ice Cream.

The new register contains the registration of four premises for the purpose of manufacture and retail of ice-cream. These premises were subject to inspection during the year. No samples were taken owing to the difficulty of getting the specimens to the laboratory in sufficient time for the material to be of value.

Milk & Dairies.

In October 1949, the supervision of milk production was passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The supervision of distributors rests with the Council, and the new register contains the names and addresses of 5 distributors. No 'Special Designation' licences are held.

The distribution of milk leaves much to be desired. The purchase in bulk of pasteurised milk, and its retail by can as raw milk can only be regarded as unsatisfactory.

Food Preparing Premises.

No register was in existence during 1949 and it was not found possible to prepare one. Thirteen certificates were issued in relation to the condemnation of various articles of foodstuffs.

Sampling.

The County inspectors presented 14 milk samples and 3 other samples for examination. No product showed evidence of adulteration.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified during the year.

V11. PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

During the year the tuberculosis register, now held on behalf of the County Council, was thoroughly sifted and brought up to date, all current cases were visited and their whereabouts verified. Cases not now in the district or dead were removed from the register. The register for the year now reads as follows:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cases on register January 1st.1949.	3	3	6
New notifications during the year.	1	1	2
Transfers to the district during the year.	3	-	3
	7	4	11
Deaths	1	-	1
Transfers to other districts during the year.	-	1	1
Cases remaining at 31st.December,1949.	6	3	9

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Cases on register January 1st.1949	1	1	2
Transfers to district.	1	1	2
	2	2	4
Removals.	-	-	-
Cases remaining at 31st.December,1949.	2	2	4

The single death occurred in hospital where the patient was removed on request. Disinfection of the premises was carried out following the removal.

Other Infectious Diseases.

No other infectious diseases were notified during the year. It does not necessarily follow that such diseases did not occur in the district. Whooping cough was relatively prominent in the surrounding rural district, and it is reasonable to assume that some cases also occurred in the Padstow Urban District. Without the necessary information in regard to infectious diseases it is obviously impossible to consider steps for their control.

May I conclude my report by expressing my thanks to the officials of the Council, in particular to Mr.Buller, for their assistance in producing this report.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN REED.

Medical Officer of Health.